

Message Text

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SUBJ: MISS LILLIAN VISIT: BIOGRAPHICS ON GAMBIAN PRINCIPALS

1. ALHAJI SIR DAWDA KAIRABA JAWARA HAS LED THE GAMBIA SINCE 1962, BECAME ITS FIRST PRIME MINISTER AT INDEPENDENCE IN 1965, AND HAS BEEN PRESIDENT FOR THE PAST EIGHT YEARS. IN 1977, PRESIDENT JAWARA'S MANDATE WAS RENEWED FOR AN ADDITIONAL FIVE YEARS IN A FREE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION IN WHICH OPPOSITION CANDIDATES RECEIVED ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF THE VOTE. SIR DAWDA'S STATUS AS AN INCREASINGLY SENIOR AFRICAN STATESMAN HAS BEEN ENHANCED BY HIS RECENT SELECTION AS CHAIRMAN PRO TEMP OF THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE TO COMBAT DROUGHT IN THE SAHEL.

NOW 54 YEARS OLD, PRESIDENT JAWARA HOLDS DEGREES IN VETERINARY MEDICINE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW, AND FROM EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY. HE WAS THE GAMBIA'S PRINCIPAL VETERINARY OFFICER PRIOR TO HIS ENTERING POLITICS IN 1959. PRESIDENT JAWARA IS MARRIED TO LADYS CHILEL AND N'JAIMEH, AND HE IS THE FATHER OF SEVERAL CHILDREN. HE IS AN AVID GOLFER, ENJOYS GARDENING, AND MAINTAINS A KEEN INTEREST
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IN CLASSICAL MUSIC.

2. ALHAJI ALIEU BADARA N'JIE, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE GAMBIA, IS A VENERABLE STALWART OF GAMBIAN POLITICS WITH OVER 50 YEARS GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE. A.B. N'JIE HAS SERVED IN EVERY CABINET SINCE PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE, AND WAS FOREIGN MINISTER FROM 1974 UNTIL LAST YEAR WHEN HE WAS NAMED VICE

PRESIDENT. N'JIE RETIRED FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE 20 YEARS AGO TO ENGAGE IN ACTIVE POLITICS. HE HAS BEEN A CLOSE ADVISOR TO PRESIDENT JAWARA FOR YEARS. ALTHOUGH 74 YEARS OLD, N'JIE LEADS THE VIGOROUS LIFE OF SOMEONE HALF HIS AGE. HE IS A KEEN SPORTSMAN, A PRACTISING MUSLIM, AND PATRIARCH OF A LARGE FAMILY.

3. LAMIN KITI JABANG, AT 35, IS ONE OF THE YOUNGEST MEMBERS OF THE GAMBIAN CABINET. FIRST ELECTED TO PARLIAMENT IN 1972, HE WAS THEREAFTER NAMED PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. AFTER THE 1977 ELECTION, HE WAS ELEVATED TO MINISTER. JABANG HAS ATTENDED THE PAST 6 UN GENERAL ASSEMBLIES, AND NOW TRAVELS EXTENSIVELY TO VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES. HE WAS RECENTLY NAMED TO BECOME THE GAMBIA'S FIRST AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES, A POSITION HE WILL HOLD CONCURRENTLY WITH MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. JABANG, A FORMER SCHOOL TEACHER, IS MARRIED AND HAS SEVERAL SMALL CHILDREN.

4. EBOU M. TAAL HAS BEEN PERMANENT SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SINCE MID-1977. PRIOR TO THAT APPOINTMENT, HE WAS GAMBIAN AMBASSADOR TO BRUSSELS. ONE OF THE GAMBIA'S YOUNGER TOP CIVIL SERVANTS, TAAL HOLDS A DIPLOMA IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IN PARIS. TAAL IS WIDELY EXPERIENCED IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, AND HAS PARTICIPATED IN NUMEROUS MULTILATERAL CONFERENCES. HE HAS A PARTICULAR INTEREST IN ECONOMIC

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ISSUES.

5. DR. WALLY S. N'DOW, THE GAMBIA'S CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER, IS CONCURRENTLY GAMBIAN COORDINATOR FOR CILSS MATTERS. A TRAINED VETERINARIAN, AT 35, HE IS ONE OF THE YOUNGER DEPARTMENT HEADS IN THE GOVERNMENT. DR. N'DOW IS EXTREMELY KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN THE GAMBIA, AND HAS WORKED CLOSELY WITH USAID TO DEVELOP A MIXED FARMING PROJECT WITH AID FUNDING. WYGANT

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